

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Emil Beyer, would you handle the committee amendments to 958, please.

SENATOR BEYER: Yes, sir. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, this bill was heard by the Transportation Committee, discussed and was voted out with the one amendment. What the amendment does is on page 2, line 17 we strike "sixteen" and insert "five". What that does is just lower the age of having a person with a seat belt on that is not confined to the child restraint seat, lowers the age to five that they have to be in with the seat belt on rather than sixteen. So that is what the amendment does and I would urge your adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Warner, followed by Senators Beck, Ashford. Senator Beck, would you like to discuss the committee amendments?

SENATOR BECK: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I think that perhaps some would perhaps express a fear about the amendments and I would just urge you to pass these amendments. I think without them it would endanger the life of the bill. It is an important bill, it is important to me and it is important to many, many people in this state. These committee amendments are a workable compromise. The age has been amended down to five. It wouldn't be a harbinger or a herald of any kind of mandatory seat belts again, even though we Nebraskans are an independent people. I just feel that this, though it might be upsetting, it will not indicate mandatory seat belts returning. It is, again, a workable compromise. I do not want to endanger the bill, believe me that we have a very weak law. We need this change, we need the amendments. I would just urge, beg, cajole, plead, and anything else that people would pass...the body would pass these amendments today to LB 958. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I just would rise to support the committee amendments. It makes this bill pretty much of a modest proposal. It significantly reduces the age requirements under the original bill that I introduced, but it does address, as Senator Beck suggests, the critical problem of very young children being exposed to a dangerous situation, first of all, and, secondly, the bill